

# Skills Canada NWT contestants strike gold, silver and bronze

*Hard work and dedication pay off for Northern youth in trades*

by Heather Lange  
Northern News Services

With more than 500 competitors in the 17th Canadian Skills Competition, there was some real talent, but that didn't stop three NWT contestants from Yellowknife from rising above the pack and becoming medalists in their events.

From June 1-4, 16 youth from the NWT competed in the event in Quebec City

with Dylan Crawley striking gold in his electrical wiring post-secondary-level event, Antonio Lewis winning silver in the welding secondary level category and Sebastien Remillard placing third for the bronze medal in the cooking secondary level event.

Jan Fullerton, executive director of Skills Canada NWT said if the contestants didn't put every ounce of their concentration and determination in to the competition, they would not have completed their tasks. "It's such a different scale of competition. The difference between territorial and national is national is significantly more challenging. It's a pretty intense competition," said Fullerton.

Fullerton said the mission of Skills Canada NWT is to promote skills and technology for Northern youth and this year, their primary focus was getting young people interested and getting exposure to the trades.

The NWT contestants first had to become the top of their class with a gold medal in their respective events at the territorial skills competition that was held in April in Yellowknife to be able to move onto the national competition.

Doug Wourms, the welding instructor with the Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre, worked closely with silver medalist, Antonio Lewis.

"He is the first medal winner for welding in the NWT and no one else has put that much time into it. He was very dedicated," said Wourms.

"He would come in at 8 a.m. every day to practise and then, after he won territorials, he practised five to eight hours above his school time to

prepare. You want to see them succeed. As long as they're willing to do it, I'm willing to help them," said Wourms.

Wourms said there was only a two per cent difference in marks separating the gold and silver medals at nationals.

**"You are tired at the end of it, but it's worth it."**

Wourms believes that Lewis will do well with whatever career he decides to pursue.

"He's got the right attitude and drive and he is going to put that much effort

into anything he does outside of school," said Wourms.

It was Dylan Crawley's last year to be eligible to compete in the Skills Canada competition.

"The pressure I put on myself was probably the hardest thing," said the 24 year old.

Crawley came in fourth last year and wanted to come

out on top in his fourth year competing in the event.

Crawley is an electrical apprentice and works full-time at Ryfan Electric. He said even though the two-day competition was intense, it paid off.

"I enjoyed it a lot. You push yourself, you are tired at the end of it, but it's worth it," said Crawley.

"It's what I do, day in and day out. That's what I love about skills, it takes what I do in my job and turns it into a game," said Crawley.

Crawley also wanted to acknowledge the younger competitors who were medalists.

"The other two guys, they did great. Being young, they will get more chances at doing better," said Crawley.

The 2012 Skills Canada territorial competition will take place in Yellowknife on April 17 next year with the national event following in Edmonton on May 13-15.



photo courtesy of Jan Fullerton

**Antonio Lewis, 16, competes in the welding secondary level event at the Canadian Skills Competition in Quebec City on June 1. Lewis was the first NWT competitor to ever medal in the event, bringing home silver.**

SPCA Calendar 2012

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